



NEWS RELEASE

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
St. Louis Little Rock Louisville Memphis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 17, 1996

ST. LOUIS — The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the applications by Magna Group, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri (Magna), and its proposed second-tier bank holding company subsidiary, HBC Acquisition Sub, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri (HBC), to acquire 100 percent of the outstanding voting shares of Homeland Bankshares Corporation, Waterloo, Iowa (Homeland), thereby indirectly acquiring Homeland's four subsidiary banks. Also approved were related notifications filed by Magna and HBC to acquire Homeland's thrift subsidiary and its two direct nonbank subsidiaries.

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